Environmental Services Division

For Immediate Release **May 13, 2003**

TROUT STOCKING RESUMED AT FOUNTAIN SPRINGS

GREELEY — Trout stocking has resumed at Fountain Springs Park in Delaware County, but DNR fisheries biologists will continue to monitor for high ammonia in the stream prior to releasing fish.

Meanwhile, a DNR investigation of a fish kill at Fountain Springs approximately 10 days ago has identified the source of the problem. Based on water sampling and property records, the DNR has determined an open feedlot owned by Richard Bockenstedt is responsible for the elevated ammonia levels in the spring.

The DNR sampled water at eight locations, including two tributaries, in the Fountain Springs watershed and found that the most likely source of ammonia was Bockenstedt's 280-head beef cattle operation located at 2030 130th Street.

After a meeting with the DNR and area Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, Bockenstedt indicated that he will attempt to move the cattle further away from the stream until they are sold. Then he plans to relocate the open feedlot to a more suitable site with NRCS and the DNR providing technical assistance.

The DNR will seek fish restitution, including the DNR staff time for the investigation, lost angler trips and $15 per trout for the 24 dead rainbow and three dead brown trout discovered on May 2 by DNR fisheries staff stocking the stream. Fountain Springs is one of the most popular trout streams in Iowa, with each angler trip worth about $50.

Penalties may also be assessed for water quality and animal feeding operation violations. A water quality violation can occur anytime that manure enters a stream.

For more information about how open feedlots can comply with water quality standards, contact the DNR and ask about the Iowa plan for open feedlots.

For more information about the Fountain Springs fish kill, contact Mike Wade at the DNR Manchester field office at 563-927-2640. For information on the Iowa plan for open feedlots, contact Deb Frundle at 515-242-6849.